

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



For Immediate Release: May 10, 2004
Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/ 232-3396
Diane Wieland 317/ 232-6699

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

*** Public Notice ***

Workers at Johnson County's Alpine Electronics receive federal assistance

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.— The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Johnson County's Alpine Electronics of America, Inc. are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

Located in Greenwood, the manufacturing facility is in the process of shifting its production efforts to Mexico. Of the 165 employees located at the Greenwood facility, 30 have already been laid off.

In order for dislocated workers to receive TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with U.S. Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released. An Alpine Electronics company official filed a petition on behalf of its workers on April 1, 2004.

Following its investigation, the U.S. Department of Labor found that a production shift to Mexico would lead to the eventual closing of the Greenwood facility. Consequently, workers at Alpine qualified for benefits as secondarily affected workers and the findings were certified on April 26, 2004. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after March 25, 2003 through two years from the date of certification is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances as well as training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Information sessions for workers on how to apply for TAA are currently being planned and will be announced at a later date. Eligible parties may also contact Vicki Qualls at the Franklin WorkOne at 317/736-5531, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

###